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# Editorial: End Darfur atrocities now

**From the Journal Sentinel**

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Today is Holocaust Remembrance Day, set aside to honor the more than 6 million Jews and others who were murdered by the Nazis during World War II. Although the world has proclaimed its determination that mass murder of this scale will never again be allowed, mass murder did not end when World War II did. Even now, slaughter on a massive scale, genocide or not, is being perpetrated in Africa, in a region of Sudan called Darfur. A bill before Congress contains measures that promise to ease this monstrous crime. It's called the Darfur Accountability Act.

The bill authorizes a battery of measures aimed at pressuring the government of Sudan, which is arming Arab militias that prey on mostly black villages in Darfur. Sponsored, chiefly, by Sens. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.) and Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), the measure passed the Senate with bipartisan support last month. One of its co-sponsors is Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.).

The State Department reckons that in the last two years, 60,000 to 160,000 people have been murdered in Darfur. Other informed estimates put the death toll as high as 400,000.

Whatever the exact number is, it was sufficiently gross to cause then-Secretary of State Colin Powell to identify it as "genocide" last fall.

His use of the term was significant because the 1948 Genocide Convention obliges the United States and other signatories to impose penalties against those guilty of this immense crime. In fact, it was Powell who focused attention on Darfur when he visited the region last June.

But U.S. policy on Darfur seems to have collapsed. Far from backing the Darfur Accountability Act, the Bush administration opposes it. This opposition, perhaps stemming from a desire to retain Sudanese cooperation in the war on terrorism, is indefensible. The measures contained in the bill are sensible.

It seeks a new United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing sanctions against the regime; imposes an arms embargo on Sudan; freezes the assets of and denies visas to Sudanese officials; provides help to an African Union military mission in Darfur; imposes a military no-fly zone over Darfur; and calls for the appointment of a special presidential envoy for Sudan.

"Never again" is a moral imperative. The struggle against genocide and the hatred it arises from require the swift enactment and strong enforcement of this measure.

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